

New York Tribune

First to Last—The Truth—News—Editorials—
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of invincibility; it has been a beaten army ever since Verdun, and every month the material advantages of its foes continue to increase.

Think of the lies that the German army has believed and then found out. The Verdun campaign was to bring peace after one more effort. The British could never get ready to fight, never would fight in great numbers. The submarine warfare would win the desired peace in three months after February of this year, if the army could hold that long. The collapse of Russia would bring peace; one more effort was all that was required. To-day their masters are bankrupt of promises and the German soldiers have still to endure not the old pressure, but a new pressure ten times as terrible.

The submarine campaign has failed like the Verdun thrust; it has not brought victory this year, and it cannot bring peace before the close of another year of fighting. Britain has arrived and the British armies are fighting onward, while behind these armies American forces are gathering and the French are still holding fast. The German sailors have begun to resist the draft to serve in the submarine; the underwater campaign is breaking down at home as well as at sea.

One by one all the German hopes and forecasts are going glimmering, and still the awful pounding continues. The legend of Prussian invincibility is not now cherished by the troops who have lost the Passchendaele Ridge or the Vimy Heights. They know. An army which expected to get to Paris in six weeks finds itself after three years being pounded out of Flanders without hope of victory in the field; it labors under no delusion as to the condition of its foe; it knows that the submarine blockade has not prevented the arrival of British ammunition.

We are seeing the slow but sure decay of one of the great military machines of human history, but the very greatness of its power, of its fame, blinds us now to the truth of its present condition, just as the Napoleonic legend long took in a Europe accustomed to Napoleonic victories won by the veterans of the Revolution, even when Napoleon was facing veteran troops with ill-trained youths, after his great lieutenants and best soldiers had perished in the victories between Marengo and Moscow. When there was next to nothing left of the army of Northern Virginia but its magnificent reputation, it still seemed invincible to the doubters in the North.

The greatest single service of the British at Ypres is the demonstration they are giving the world of the decline of German morale and German might. We are still under the shadow of our old fears and of our apprehensions, which were just three years ago, two years ago, but now are childish. At its best the German army failed at the Marne and at Verdun; while it was still strong it lost at the Somme. This year it has lost every considerable engagement in the West and has been unable to attempt any major operation in the East.

Third Ypres in its largest meaning is a demonstration of the rapid decline of German military strength; it is the clear proof that Germany has lost the war; it is the reasonable assurance that the next campaign will bring triumphs not to be measured by yards or by rods. It is one of the decisive battles of the war, just as the series of struggles between the Rapidan and the James in 1864 were the sure forerunners of Confederate collapse. This is what Third "Wipers" means. Only the purposefully blind and the congenitally weak-spirited will mistake the fact. "We have them," Pétain's soldiers said after the first days of Verdun. In their turn Haig's troops can take up this cry.

The School Strikes

Some genuine discontent with a new and strange school system can doubtless be found in the school strikes of the last few days. It would be extraordinary if such a reorganization, however beneficial, could be instituted without creating a little criticism among the ignorant and ill-informed. The bulk of the demonstration, however, is plainly of another character. It represents Tammany's last desperate effort to fan the Gary school into a political issue. The strikes are unquestionably engineered by exactly the same trouble-makers who have been fighting the Gary idea with lies and class prejudice ever since the municipal campaign came within sight.

The fomenting centre of all the disturbance has been high school children. Now, the Gary idea has not been applied to a single high school in the city. The strike of the high school boys and girls was due to entirely different causes and a lengthening of the school day for which the Gary system was not remotely responsible. But by astutely preying upon the natural instinct of rebellion in the children and also the East Side hysteria of parents, an old and familiar phenomenon, the Tammany agents have succeeded in stirring up sporadic protests in several East Side Gary schools.

It is inflammable material that these politicians are playing with. East Side riots of mothers have protested against some of the most beneficial health measures which have been undertaken. Aliens can endure rude blows still and hang on, but it has lost the old sense of superiority,

political benefit on Election Day Tammany can hope to glean from this sort of sabotage. It can produce confusion, injustice, bad feeling, hysteria. There is, however, an exceedingly intelligent and high-minded vote on the East Side, and we can recall no election in which the temporary hysteria of non-English speaking East Siders ever showed material results on Election Day.

The episode fits perfectly into the campaign of lies that the Hearst-Hylan-Hollenzern managers are conducting. Will the citizens of New York, East Side or any other side, fall for such arrant bunco work?

Another Sulzer

Soon after Judge Hylan's nomination The Tribune explained, in answer to an inquirer, that the Tammany candidate was not "the same old Bill" redoubtable, but was startlingly like him. Campaign disclosures have proved a resemblance not even dreamed of at that time.

Indictments, if Justified

District Attorney Swann announces negotiations with leaders of the dairy-men's organizations to induce them to reduce the price of milk to what it was before the October increases. What business has the District Attorney to dicker with these men?

If they have violated the anti-trust law and he can collect the evidence against them, it is his duty to indict them and see that they are brought to trial as soon as the condition of the court calendars permits. If they have violated no law, but have only followed the methods of other business "combinations," they are, at the least, entitled to a statement of that fact. Customers may then pay the price or refrain from using milk, according to the state of their pulses.

For the District Attorney to talk one day of indictments and the next of dickers to reduce milk prices savors of a use of the powers of his office as a club which even customers benefited by a price reduction could hardly countenance.

"Regularity" Not an Issue

It is only by the wildest stretch of imagination that any voter can deem that party regularity demands the support of Mr. Bennett this year instead of Mayor Mitchell. The former by a fluke won the nomination for Mayor at the Republican primaries. But his party standing is not unassailable. He has been a Progressive and has run for office as a Progressive. Moreover, at a recent meeting in Brooklyn he refused to permit the distribution of campaign literature advocating the election of candidates for other offices who likewise carried the Republican primaries. He "hogged" the meeting and flouted the very issue of party regularity he has raised. As between Mayor Mitchell, Democrat, and Mr. Bennett, ex-Progressive, who refuses to cooperate with other Republicans, there is nothing to choose on the score of "regularity."

Mr. Root does well at this time to bring forward the portion of the address in which the Constitutional Convention of 1894 explained to the public the reasons for separating municipal from state and national elections. It involves that very point of "party regularity." It was done "to the end that the business affairs of our great municipal corporations may be managed upon their own merits, uncontrollable by national and state politics, and to the end, also, that the great issues of national and state politics may be determined upon their merits, free from the disturbing and often demoralizing effect of local contests." That is, municipal candidates were to be chosen for merit, regardless of party affiliations, and no Republican who voted for a Democrat or Democrat who voted for a Republican sacrificed or invalidated his party standing. Tammany fought the reform, naturally.

Mayor Mitchell is a candidate on merit. That merit has been proved in four years of splendid administration. During three of those years the usual problems of government have been tremendously complicated by others arising from war conditions, but the Mayor and his colleagues have handled them all with notable success. He has been not only an able, intelligent, efficient city executive, but a loyal and fearless lieutenant of the Federal government, expressing Americanism and suppressing sedition with a keen sense of the need for undivided loyalty in this crisis.

So far as any one can tell from his public career or his campaign utterances, Mr. Bennett has slight qualifications for this tremendous office. He, like Judge Hylan, has made a campaign of negation, not of affirmation. That is not a policy to appeal to voters. The Republicans of the city furnished a good part of the Fusion vote which elected Mayor Mitchell four years ago. They have had no reason to regret it. They will have every reason to regret it if enough of them vote for Mr. Bennett this year to throw the election to Tammany's candidate and Hearst's.

Humor, Canned and Fresh

Once in a long, long while you run into an all-round human being blessed by the fairies with the two separate and opposing gifts of humor. He can tell yarns, stories, anecdotes—the stock in trade of the hard working humorist, amateur and professional. He can also toss out the fresh stuff, the humor horn of talk, the original fun that is utterly personal, quite ephemeral, and easily the best in the world. When you discover such a wonder, appreciate your blessings and drink while you may. Miracles are rare.

In most mortals fairies repose only one of the gifts and let it go at that. They often go on and thoroughly negative the other. The true story teller has his list of records, replenished with more or less frequency, which he slips in one by one and plays for your benefit, supposed or real. He has no original wit whatever. Unless the last remark reminds him of what Pat the Irishman said when the hod fell on him he is

lost, a hopelessly silent and tongue-tied skeleton at the feast. Let the levers work, and he operates as grayly and promptly as a cash register. There are all grades of anecdotalists. The few immortals who have the creative sense of humor as well fit their stories to the occasion as if they had sprung into being at the moment for that one particular purpose. Down the line, far down the line—and the line descends swiftly—come stories told simply because they are stories, and nobody has strength of mind to run away. The breed is one, however diverse the method and skill.

Let it not be pretended that all non-story tellers are wits. Far from it. The most that can be said is that the gift of anecdote smothered fresh talk and that the bulk of original phrase making, of new, personal humor, comes off tongues not dulled by the repetition of many tales. It is painful to lack stories upon occasion, especially when a vague memory persists of a story we heard last week that would just fit—what the devil was it? Going home in the subway we remember. Such belated recollections never afflict the expert anecdotalist. Yet for such consolation as it is the question of original humor is not to be sneezed at. Who has not heard a flying sentence of personal, face-to-face humor that was worth all the stories of Irishmen rolled into one? When the fairies deny you a cash register memory for pat stories they at least leave you free to make your own conversational change.

Liberty Bonds

Suggestions, Praise and Blame From
Tribune Readers

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Mr. H. M. Whiting's contention in today's Tribune that Liberty bond salesmen should display their wares seems to be a point well taken.

During the first subscription for Liberty bonds, I made out an application on the prescribed form, sent it with a check in full payment to my bank in Washington, and to date I have only received acknowledgment of the application and the check. I hope I have not been received from the printer, much less issued.

On the 3rd of this month I sent, along with an order for other bonds, an order for four of the second Liberty Loan bonds. This order went to a New York bond house, an advertiser in The Tribune, who is exploiting this newest Liberty Loan. To date he has ignored my order for the Liberty Loan bonds entirely, in spite of a second letter to him. I have been in the Federal service for eight years and am determined to own some Liberty bonds. If they can be procured, perhaps my experience is unique in being refused an opportunity to buy a bond, but it seems as if the process should be easier than I have found it.

A NINTH GENERATION PATRIOT.

"Somewhere in America," Oct. 16, 1917.

Where to Keep Liberty Bonds
To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: To encourage the sale of Liberty bonds among people of limited means and make them popular I suggest that some place or places should be provided where they can be safely deposited against loss or theft. As a rule, these people keep no box in a safety vault; neither can they afford to pay the charge; they keep no bank account, and know but little about banking business generally; but such as are thrifty do know that they can place savings with savings banks and can withdraw them as needed.

Poor people cannot be expected to buy United States bonds if they have no safe place to keep them better than in their stocking, their bosom or fireplace.

I hope, therefore, that some plan or place will be made or provided where such worthy persons can safely lodge their security free of expense, and can cut off the coupons when due or obtain their bonds when needed.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

New York, Oct. 16, 1917.

Liberty Bonds for Christmas Gifts

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: With the second Liberty Loan far behind schedule, we must wake up and do things in order to make it the success it should be. I think that if the following suggestions would be brought to the attention of some of the large business houses and corporations they would greatly help the sale of Liberty bonds.

We all know that there are thousands of concerns that present their employees with a cash Christmas gift or sometimes a cash bonus in appreciation of their work during the year. What American, or even a foreigner, would not prefer a Liberty bond to a cash bonus?

The employer or head of a concern may buy the bonds and put them in a safe until Christmas, or he may take advantage of the liberal terms offered by Uncle Sam and pay off in installments. This will cause no extra expense or trouble and will at the same time perform a duty to our country.

IRWIN KASANOFF.
New York, Oct. 16, 1917.

Why Not Smaller Bonds?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Liberty Loan workers are continually declaring that the small investors are needed to make it a success, but the Treasury Department takes no steps to attract these small investors.

The lowest bond is for \$50; how many small investors can give that amount? Banks, trust companies and corporations are trying to help by offering to receive \$1 down and the remainder in weekly or monthly payments. But the man or woman with very few dollars hesitates to bind himself or herself to a continuous payment for nearly a year. Moreover, no certificates are ready, and they naturally desire a tangible receipt for their hard earned savings.

How preposterous to make \$50 the lowest figure for a popular loan! Great Britain made it a pound, and I seem to remember that her most successful loan had its lowest figure five shillings, and every postoffice in the country was open to receive subscriptions.

H. H. W.
New York, Oct. 15, 1917.

High Heels and Other Things

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Now that men have presumed to dictate to women as to the kind of shoe heels they shall wear, I hope, when the women do secure their right to a voice in the government, they will dictate to us men that we shall not wear tight collars and long cuffs in summer. I also hope they will not allow men with breaths of whiskey, tobacco and beer to enter crowded cars or other crowded places, where we are compelled to breathe over and over again the same air. It seems to me that the style of boot one wears does not cause discomfort or inconvenience to any one else and comes pretty near being no one else's business.

ONE OF THE PERFECT (?)

New York, Oct. 14, 1917.

The Case for Academic Freedom

Why University Professors Demand That Trustees Be Restricted to
the Handling of Financial AffairsBy Dr. Joseph Alexander Leighton
Professor of Philosophy in Ohio State University

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is regrettable that the principles at issue in the resignation of Dr. Beard from the Columbia faculty should be obscured, as is the case in your recent editorial, by the ostensible grounds for Dr. Cattell's dismissal—namely, disloyalty to America at a time when the country is at war. Whether Dr. Cattell's alleged pacifist activities were put forward as a camouflage or not, it is not the business of the trustees to concern themselves with the attitude toward the war attributed to Dr. Cattell. I have advocated our entrance into the war for over two years and I believe in pushing it to a termination by which the ruling group in Germany will be utterly discredited and ruined at home. I am for no peace with the Kaiser and his devil's star chamber.

But the real issue in such cases, as many of us see it, is an issue on whose outcome depends in large measure the further development of a genuine university spirit in the United States. The vital issue is this: shall university policies as to freedom in research utterance and action on the part of university professors, and all questions that may arise as to the proper limitations on the exercise of such freedom in the interests of public order, be determined and enforced exclusively by a small body of men—the trustees—who, by habits of thought and action, are for the most part relative strangers to the whole business of research and instruction? Or shall the men whose lifework is the twofold one of independent research and independent instruction and utterance (without which the life of research is maimed and wingless) have a legal and effective part in the determination of such policies?

A Jury of His Peers

Is the professor, when he is accused of propagating a dangerous heresy, economic, political or otherwise, entitled to be judged by a jury of his peers or is he to be summarily dealt with by a body of relative outsiders whose devotion to the upbuilding of a university, however generously manifested, carries with it no guarantee that they have a sympathetic understanding of the vocation to which the professor has been called, especially with regard to its inner ideals and finer obligations? If a professor commits treason or any other crime he is amenable to the law of the land like any other citizen. But if it be a question of whether he has violated the ethics of his own highly specialized calling, should not his fellows be called in judgment? Lawyers and physicians, who may be within the law of the land, are subjected to such judgment by their fellows.

There is no greater anachronism, no more striking anomaly in our democracy, than the fact that a body of men who have dedicated themselves to the high and arduous task of discovering and imparting scientific—that is, systematically gleaned and organized—knowledge concerning vital human concerns should be legally in status nothing more than the hirelings of a corporation composed usually of successful business men and financiers, lawyers and, occasionally, physicians and clergymen—men whose vocations in most cases are so remote in methods and characters from the business of the university scholar that they can have but little grasp or insight with respect to the conditions under which alone the work of the productive scholar can be carried on. Legally, in most instances, trustees can dismiss the greatest scholar or thinker in the university for any alleged heresy. (That they so seldom do so nowadays is to their credit as sensible men and to the credit of an enlightened public opinion, in spite of the feudalistic and bureaucratic constitution of universities.)

Trustees' Proper Functions

In the old days, when colleges were founded chiefly to support and propagate the sectarian faiths of religious bodies, it was considered right and proper that if the professor of biology, for instance, came into conflict with the Baptist or Presbyterian faith he must go. The professor knew when he accepted a call the limitations under which he must work. Moreover, these were not universities. An institution founded and maintained to propagate any specific body of doctrine, whether theological, economic or political, has no proper title to the name university. To contend that the teachings of university professors must agree with the economic, political, social or religious faiths of trustees or of the great body of the public whom they are commonly supposed to represent is to strike a fatal blow at the very taproot of the university.

Mr. Hillquit's "Americanism"

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: May I ask Mr. Morris Hillquit, the Socialist candidate for Mayor, how he reconciles his weak-kneed attitude toward our war to make the world safe for democracy with the fearless stand taken immediately on the commencement of hostilities by Wilhelm Hollenzern, by such a man as Gustave Hervé, the French Socialist, editor of "La Victoire" (formerly "La Guerre Sociale"), who had spent altogether nearly ten years of his life in jail because of his anti-militarist propaganda, and by Benito Mussolini, the young Italian Socialist agitator and editor of "Il Popolo d'Italia," who, with only a few francs in his pocket, resigned from the important position he occupied on the "Avanti" of Milan, the Germanophile-pacifist organ of the so-called "Official Socialists," and with half a dozen friends started a newspaper which did more than any other one publication in his country to line up Italy on the side of the Allies?

Hervé is fighting with a pen instead of with a bayonet because he is almost blind. Mussolini is now recovering from a serious wound received during service at the Italian front. No one can question their sincerity as Socialists. But Hervé beside being an honest Socialist is also a good Frenchman, and Mussolini beside being an uncompromising Socialist is also a patriotic Italian.

Mr. Hillquit, too, doubtless, is an honest Socialist. But what sort of an American is he? Has he been thoroughly "digested"?

And may I add with reference to his appeal on behalf of the woman suffrage amendment that while on general principles I favor "votes for women," when I realize that there are in this great city thousands of women sympathizers with the Hillquit standard of Americanism, I hesitate to vote to give the suffrage to a feminine mass as "undigested" nationally as he seems to be.

W. J. G.
New York, Oct. 14, 1917.

roots of the spiritual life of a university. A university administered on such a policy is a fraud and a delusion. Trustees are properly custodians of the physical and financial implements necessary to enable teachers and students to work under the banner of one article of faith alone—"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."